



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/323,397	06/01/1999	JYOJI WADA	402/584	9134

7590

03/03/2004

MORRIS LISS
POLLOCK VANDE SANDE & AMERNICK
P O BOX 19088
WASHINGTON, DC 200363425

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2612

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/323,397

Applicant(s)

WADA ET AL.

Examiner

LUONG T NGUYEN

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2612

DETAILED ACTION

1. The allowance of claim 10 in the final office action as made on 11/04/2003 (Paper No. 11) has been withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference to Ahn (US 5,442,868). A replacement final is made as follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawai et al. (US 5,479,203) in view of Conway (US 5,719,622) further in view of Ahn (US 5,442,868).

Regarding claim 10, Kawai et al. discloses a video camera pivoting apparatus comprising pivoting means (panhead 4, figure 3, column 3, lines 35-45) for pivoting camera at a pivoting speed, said video camera including a zoom mechanism (zoom lens 2, figure 3, column 3, lines 35-45) and zoom amount signal generation means (zoom level detecting circuit 3, figure 3, column 3, lines 35-45) for generating a zoom amount signal (zoom level, column 3, lines 39-42); speed controlling means for controlling said pivoting speed in accordance with said zoom amount signal (speed of panning is to be controlled according to the zoom ratio, column 10, lines 8-12, column 4, lines 17-27).

Art Unit: 2612

Kawai et al. fail to specifically disclose pivoting speed command signal generating means responsive to an operation for generating a pivoting speed command; and speed controlling means for controlling said pivoting speed in accordance with said pivoting speed command signal. However, Conway discloses visual control selection of remote mechanisms in which the movement of camera 16 is remotely controlled by joystick 34 (figure 1, column 3, lines 50-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Kawai et al. by the teaching of Conway in order to let the operator remotely controlled the movement of the video camera.

Kawai et al. and Conway fail to specifically disclose a value of the pivoting speed command signal assumes a maximum value when said operation angle of said joystick mechanism is greater than a reference operation angle and is smaller than a maximum operation angle of said joystick mechanism. However, Ahn teaches that when the operator manipulates the joystick at an angle larger than DEG_MAX angle (s reference operation angle), which is smaller than a maximum operation angle of the joystick, the angular velocity of the boom or swing is maximum (figure 4, column 5, lines 35-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Kawai et al. and Conway by the teaching of Ahn in order to control the movement of the video camera in an easy and precise manner even if it is operated by an unskilled operator.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-6 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Art Unit: 2612

Regarding claim 3, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest a video camera pivoting apparatus comprising said pivoting speed command signal generating means having a joystick mechanism to generate said pivoting speed command signal such that the value of said pivoting speed command signal assumes a maximum value when said operation angle of said joystick mechanism is greater than another reference operation angle and which is greater than aid first-mentioned reference operation angle.

Regarding claim 4, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest a video camera pivoting apparatus comprising wherein said joystick mechanism includes reaction force generation means for generating a reaction force such that said reaction force increases at a third rate with respect to an operation angle of said joystick mechanism when said operation angle is not greater than a reference operation angle and at a fourth rate with respect to said operation angle of said joystick mechanism when said operation angle is greater than said reference operation angle, said fourth rate being greater than said third rate in order to inform the operator that said value of said pivoting speed command signal increases at said second rate.

Claims 5-6 are allowable for the reason given respect to claim 4.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

Art Unit: 2612

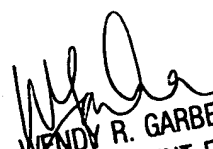
the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 308-9297. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LN LN
2/23/2004


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600